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# BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

and of the

**CHIEF**

**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR 1961.



1961

## BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Chairman of the Council :**

Councillor P. E. PAINE, J.P.

**Clerk of the Council :**

S. M. FORMAN

## **Staff of the Public Health Department**

**Medical Officer of Health :**

G. HIRD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

**Chief Public Health Inspector :**

G. G. POPPLEWELL, M.A.P.H.I.

**Additional Public Health Inspectors :**

P. McPHUN, M.A.P.H.I.

G. FOX, M.A.P.H.I.

**Clerks :**

C. H. CUTHBERT

Mrs. D. E. WILLIAMS (resigned 30th November, 1961)

**Medical Officer's Clerk : D. DADY.**

## BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Council Offices,  
126 London Road,  
Boston, Lincs.  
Telephone : 3271.

### To the Chairman and Members of the Boston Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Bowden and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Statistical Report on the health of the Rural District and on the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1961.

The mid-year population as estimated by the Registrar-General was 22,410 which is slightly less than the figure of last year. In 1951 the estimated mid-year population was 20,850, thus in the past 10 years the population has gone up by approximately 1,600. The number of inhabited houses in 1961 was 7,408, whilst the corresponding figure for 1951 was 6,364, an increase of 1,044. This gives some indication of the growth of the Rural District in the past ten years.

There were 327 live births during the year, 9 of them illegitimate. The number of births was 35 less than in 1960. The Crude Birth Rate was 14.6 and that multiplied by the Comparability Factor as issued by the Registrar-General gives a Corrected Birth Rate of 14.4. The Live Birth Rate for England and Wales was 17.4 per 1,000 population. There were 5 Still Births which is 2 less than in 1960. The Still Birth Rate was 15.1 compared with the figure of 19.1 for England and Wales.

There were 195 deaths during the year, a decrease of 13 as compared with the previous year. This gives a Crude Death Rate of 8.7 which on correction with the Comparability Factor gives a figure of 9.3. The national figure for England and Wales was 12.0 per 1,000 population. The number of deaths from malignant disease totalled 30 which is just over 15% of all deaths. 4 of these were due to lung cancer, all in males. Well over 50% of the deaths were due to Heart and Associated Circulatory conditions. Influenza, Pneumonia and Bronchitis accounted for 21 deaths in all.

There were a large number of cases of Measles notified during the year, 564 compared with 15 the previous year. Chicken Pox was the next most prevalent disease in that 96 were notified whilst Whooping Cough was third on the list with 63 cases. Dysentery appeared to be much less prevalent during 1961 as only 5 cases were notified compared with 14 the previous year. There were only 3 cases of Food Poisoning, 2 less than in 1960. With regard to Tuberculosis, only 5 cases, all of the respiratory type, were notified, 6 less than in

1960. 2 of the 5 notifications were in respect of cases transferred into the Rural District from other areas.

No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in the Rural District during 1961. Sharp, explosive outbreaks, however, occurred in several parts of the Country, Ipswich, Liverpool and Hull all being badly affected. The outbreak in Hull was so extensive that the Minister of Health authorised the use of a live attenuated vaccine which had been recently developed. A very large proportion of the population were given the vaccine on sugar lumps or, in the case of children by means of syrup, in a remarkably short time. There was a rapid diminution in the number of cases occurring and in a matter of a week or so, the epidemic was over.

The vaccination programme in the Rural District continued during the year and a table given later in the Report gives some indication of the response. Although better than in many other areas in the country, the figures in several of the age groups are disappointingly low. In spite of all the national publicity many people still appear to be quite uninterested in obtaining for themselves and their children what is virtually the only form of protection against this most crippling of diseases.

During the earlier part of the year reports of mussels, taken from the Welland beds and found on bacteriological examination to be polluted, were received from a local authority in the Midlands. As a result further samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service in Lincoln and most of them were also found to be polluted. A report was submitted to the Council whereupon they resolved to make an Order under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948 prohibiting the distribution for sale for human consumption of mussels taken from any laying within the Council's District.

With regard to Environmental Hygiene, housing matters occupied much of the Public Health Inspectors' time. Slum Clearance continued but at a slower rate than previously. Demolition Orders were made on 5 houses, undertakings not to relet were accepted by the Council in 11 instances and 1 Closing Order was made. There are still many unfit houses in the area to be dealt with but lack of time prevents proper surveys being made as required by the Housing Act.

Many properties on which the Council made Demolition or Closing Orders—some several years ago—are still occupied. The Council have been periodically reminded of these cases during the course of the year but these unfit houses remain occupied. There appears to be little sense of urgency in dealing with these cases by the various House Lettings Sub-Committees. Admittedly some of the cases are indeed problems but nevertheless, I feel their need for better accommodation is as great as that of many newly married couples returning

from their honeymoon direct to a Council House. Both require accommodation but there are varying degrees of need.

The amount of work and time involved in dealing with Improvement Grants was again extensive and 64 applications were dealt with. In all about half the Inspectors' time is taken up with Grant work. Each case has to be inspected in detail and various consultations may be necessary with the owner, builder or architect before the application is approved by the Council. There are still many properties without the "Standard Amenities", capable of being improved and given greatly extended life, which if not dealt with will degenerate into unfit property. The grant schemes are not being utilised as well as they might be. There seems to be a strong case for compulsory powers in this respect.

Most of the sites occupied by proprietary type caravans have now complied with the regulations introduced in 1960 under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act. The largest site for 20 caravans at Wyberton provides a useful amenity for those people who prefer this way of life, or who by reason of their occupation, are required to move about the country. Caravan life is probably fairly acceptable to childless couples but once a family has been started there are inherent difficulties in this form of habitation.

Further progress was made with the Sewerage Schemes and parts of the parishes of Frampton and Kirton together with the extensions at the Disposal Works were completed. Completion of sewers, however, is only the beginning of the problem for the Health Department as all the drains have to be inspected and tested. As expected there was a fairly heavy demand for sewer connections and the peculiar layout of Kirton presented many difficult problems. As a result the district inspector was hard pressed and this together with meat inspection occupied the major part of his duties.

During the year an inquiry was held into proposed sewerage schemes at Butterwick, Freiston, Fishtoft and Wyberton and work commenced on the Leverton scheme. The Council also considered the need for sewerage schemes in Old Leake and Swineshead and agreed that these should proceed and be submitted to the Ministry for approval.

The Refuse Collection Service continues to present its various problems. The number of premises continues to increase, the refuse increases in bulk and suitable sites for disposal become increasingly difficult to find. In spite of this a very efficient service was provided in the district during the year. Later in the Report tables are given showing the cost of this service.

With regard to Sanitary Pail Emptying, disposal is now done at the Disposal Works. There has been a reduction in the number and it is gratifying to note that now only 1,309 need emptying instead of 1,455 as was the case in 1960. Such is progress !

The Cesspool Emptying Service created little trouble now that disposal is being done at the Sewage Works. The experimental disposal at the works appears to have been successful and if it continues will be a boon to the Council. Previously many complaints were received regarding the method of disposal at a point on the Borough Sewer.

Once again the Inspectors are to be congratulated in achieving 100% meat inspection although in order to achieve this, it was necessary to work 127 hours overtime for which no payment is made. A large proportion of the inspectors' time is taken up with this aspect of the work largely due to the scattered positions of the slaughterhouses and the different times of slaughter. The number of animals killed is less this year because one slaughterhouse suspended operations during extensive reconstruction. The Appointed Day for the Rural District fixed by the Minister was 1st October, 1961. Five of the six slaughterhouses were completed by that date but as indicated above, extensive alterations were in hand at the sixth. It is anticipated that in view of the capacity of this enlarged slaughterhouse, there will be a large increase in the number of animals slaughtered which could mean that the district inspector will spend even more time on this work at the expense of other duties. A more logical solution to the problem would be the appointment of an additional inspector. This step was considered by the Council during 1961, but no action was taken in the matter.

In conclusion I wish to convey my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council for their continued support. I also wish to thank the officers in other departments for their help and also Mr. Popplewell, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and all other members of the staff in the Health Department for their considerable assistance during the year, especially in the preparation of this Report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Bowden and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. HIRD,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1962.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) ... ... ... ... ...	84,398
Home Population (Registrar-General's Mid-year estimate for 1961) ... ... ... ...	22,410
Number of inhabited houses ... ... ... ...	7,408
Average number of persons per inhabited house ...	3.03
Average number of persons per acre ...	.26
Number of inhabited houses per acre ...	.088
Average number of persons per square mile ...	170
Estimated product of a penny rate ...	£583
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1961 ...	£147,860

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The social conditions of the district have remained unchanged during the year.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

<b>Live Births</b>		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ... ... ...	151	167	318	
Illegitimate ... ... ... ...	3	6	9	
Total Live Births ... ... ...	154	173	327	
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude) ... ... ... ...		...	...	14.6
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (adjusted) ... ... ... ...		...	...	14.4
<b>Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births</b>		...	...	2.7%
<b>Still Births</b>		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ... ... ...	3	2	5	
Illegitimate ... ... ... ...	—	—	—	
Total Still Births ... ... ...	3	2	5	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...		15.1		
<b>Total Live and Still births</b>		Male	Female	Total
Total Live and Still births ... ... ...	157	175	332	
<b>Infant Deaths</b>				
<b>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</b>		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ... ... ...	3	—	3	
Illegitimate ... ... ... ...	1	—	1	
Total ... ... ... ...	4	—	4	

**Infant Mortality Rates :—**

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	12.2
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	9.4
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	111.1

<b>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Legitimate	...	...	3
Illegitimate	...	...	1
Total	...	...	4

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births ... 12.2

<b>Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Legitimate	...	...	3
Illegitimate	...	...	1
Total	...	...	4

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births ... 12.2

<b>Perinatal Mortality</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Still Births and Deaths under 1 week	7	2	9
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	27.1

**Maternal Mortality**

Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	Nil

<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
All Causes	102	93	195
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude)	...	...	8.7
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (adjusted)	...	...	9.3

**OBSERVATIONS ON VITAL STATISTICS**

In the following comments on the Vital Statistics both the crude birth and death rates are given together with the rates after adjustment by the Comparability Factors. These factors have been supplied by the Registrar-General and are intended to afford a means of adjustment to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas. Consequently, the adjusted birth and death rates enable a more accurate comparison to be made with the corresponding rates in other areas.

It is also emphasised that undue significance should not be attached to rates which are based on very small numbers (e.g. infant mortality) and that a comparison of such rates with those in other areas, or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

#### POPULATION :

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population for the mid-year, 22,410, shows a slight decrease on the figure for the previous year which was 22,430. The number of births for the year exceeded the number of deaths by 132.

#### BIRTHS :

There were 327 births registered during the year, 35 less than in the previous year. This total comprised 154 males and 173 females. The Crude Birth Rate was 14.6 whilst the Adjusted Rate was 14.4. This is less than the corresponding figures of 16.1 and 16.0 for 1960. The Rate for England and Wales was 17.4. There were 9 illegitimate births, 3 males and 6 females, which was two less than in the previous year.

#### STILL BIRTHS :

There were 5 still births, a decrease of 2 from 1960. The Still Birth Rate was 15.1 as compared with the national figure of 19.1 per 1,000 total live and still births.

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY :

Once again there were no deaths recorded from this cause during the year.

#### INFANT MORTALITY :

4 infants under the age of 1 year died during 1961, which was 4 less than in the previous year. The Infant Mortality Rate was 12.2. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 21.6.

#### PERINATAL MORTALITY :

This includes the Still Births and Deaths under 1 week, and the figure for 1961 was 9. This gives a Perinatal Mortality Rate of 27.1. The national figure was 32.2.

**Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates  
in Boston Rural District, 1947-1961.**

Year	No. of Births	Crude Birth Rates	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates	Average 5 years		
						Birth Rates	Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates
1947	408	19.9	202	9.9	41.7			
1948	361	18.6	179	9.2	27.7			
1949	329	16.3	200	9.9	24.3			
1950	363	17.9	229	11.3	27.5			
1951	346	16.6	233	11.2	17.3			
						17.9	10.3	27.7
1952	356	17.2	201	9.7	22.5			
1953	375	17.7	226	10.7	16.0			
1954	403	18.9	212	9.9	22.3			
1955	356	16.5	228	10.6	25.3			
1956	329	15.0	224	10.2	30.4			
						17.1	10.2	23.3
1957	366	16.6	252	11.4	24.6			
1958	372	16.8	186	8.4	13.4			
1959	297	13.3	206	9.2	30.3			
1960	362	16.1	208	9.3	22.1			
1961	327	14.6	195	8.7	12.2			
						15.5	9.4	20.5

#### DEATHS :

The corrected figure of deaths allocated to the district, after transfers in and out, was 195, a reduction of 13 compared with 1960. The resulting Crude Death Rate was 8.7 whilst the Adjusted Rate was 9.3. This compares quite favourably with the rate of 12.0 per 1,000 population for England and Wales. The main causes of death are given later in the Report.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1961.

No.	Cause of Death	Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—
8.	Measles	...	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	—

No.	Cause of Death	Males	Females
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	— 6
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	— 1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	9 6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukæmia	...	— 1
16.	Diabetes	...	— 2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	11 18
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	22 8
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	— 1
20.	Other heart disease	...	13 21
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	7 4
22.	Influenza	...	— 3
23.	Pneumonia	...	2 8
24.	Bronchitis	...	4 4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	2 1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1 1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	3 1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	— 1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	— 1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	13 4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	— 1
34.	All other accidents	...	3 1
35.	Suicide	...	— 2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	—
ALL CAUSES		102	93

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES :

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Lincoln. Samples of water have been regularly submitted for bacteriological examination.

The Laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, continue to carry out chemical examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE :

This service is provided and maintained by the Holland County Council through the Ambulance and Transport Department.

### SCHOOL MEDICAL AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES :

These services are administered by the Holland County Council.

## TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision and administration of Treatment Centres and Clinics is delegated to the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council.

The treatment of Scabies and similar complaints is carried out at the Cleansing Station, London Road, Boston, which is under the control of the County Council.

## NURSING IN THE HOME :

The home nursing service is under the control of the Local Health Authority.

## HOSPITALS :

All Hospitals in the area are under the control of the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Details of the facilities available in Boston and District are as follows :—

Boston General Hospital—Acute General.

London Road Hospital, Boston—Orthopædic and Acute General.

White House Hospital, Fishtoft—Infectious and Chest Diseases.

Wyberton West Hospital, Boston—Medical and Maternity.

Woodlands Court, Kirton—Aged Sick.

Freiston Hall Children's Hospital—Sick Children.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION :

No action was taken by the Council under this Section.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the total number of infectious diseases notified and confirmed during the year and the numbers admitted to hospital.

**Notifiable Diseases during the year, 1961.**

Disease	Cases Notified	Confirmed Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital
Chicken Pox .... .... ....	96	96	Nil
Dysentery .... .... ....	5	5	Nil
Erysipelas .... .... ....	1	1	Nil
Food Poisoning .... .... ....	3	3	Nil
Measles .... .... ....	564	564	3
Meningococcal Infection .... .... ....	2	2	2
Pneumonia .... .... ....	11	11	4
Scarlet Fever .... .... ....	48	48	2
Whooping Cough .... .... ....	63	63	5

Infectious diseases did not cause any great disturbance as has been the case on many occasions in the past. There were a large number of cases of Measles notified but this was to be expected as in the previous year the number had been exceedingly small. 96 cases of Chicken Pox were notified and 63 cases of Whooping Cough. There appeared to be little Dysentery about as only 5 cases were notified compared with 14 the previous year. There were 3 cases of Food Poisoning.

During the year the Public Health Inspectors made 84 visits in connection with investigation and control of infectious diseases.

### Infectious Diseases Notified 1952-1961.

Disease	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
Chicken Pox ..	96	133	206	123	81	180	275	166	155	137
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	5	14	79	—	—	61	69	12	30	—
Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or typhoid fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	1	2	14	3	1	5	3	2	2	5
Food Poisoning ..	3	5	7	8	3	10	7	—	11	2
Malaria (contracted abroad) ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	564	15	395	14	905	55	402	10	682	126
Meningococcal Infection ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	11	6	9	14	14	12	21	11	29	18
Poliomyelitis : Paralytic ..	—	—	—	—	5	—	1	—	4	—
Non-Paralytic ..	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Scabies ..	—	—	5	7	—	—	1	3	2	3
Scarlet Fever ..	48	59	14	14	18	23	45	33	19	11
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	63	15	4	32	97	30	33	153	95	40

### TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

Table I.

	Males		Females		Total
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
(a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year ..	53	7	49	8	117
(b) Number of cases notified for first time in year ....	2	—	1	—	3
(c) Number of cases restored to Register .... .... ....	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to Register other than by formal notification .... ....	1	—	1	—	2
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year .... .... .... ....	4	—	1	1	6
(f) Number of cases remaining on Register on 31st December, 1961 .... ....	52	7	50	7	116

# SUMMARY OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1952—1961

**Table II.**

Year	Cases on Register			Notifications each year			Deaths		
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total
1952	91	18	109	15	—	15	—	—	—
1953	93	10	103	22	5	27	5	1	6
1954	98	9	107	16	1	17	3	1	4
1955	97	10	107	11	3	14	—	—	—
1956	101	12	113	11	2	13	—	—	—
1957	98	12	110	8	2	10	1	—	1
1958	91	15	106	7	5	12	1	—	1
1959	96	15	111	14	—	14	2	—	2
1960	102	15	117	10	1	11	—	—	—
1961	102	14	116	5	—	5	2	—	2

## TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases notified within the Rural District come under the control of Dr. A. M. Forrest, Chest Physician, South Lincolnshire Area.

The following table gives details of new cases notified and deaths occurring during the year.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	2	—	—	2	—	—	—

## TREATMENT OF SCABIES :

Facilities for the cleansing of persons requiring treatment are provided by the Holland County Council, the cost of such treatments in respect of persons other than school children being charged to the

District Council. Should medical practitioners request treatment for patients, details of notifications are immediately passed to the County Council thus ensuring that infected persons receive early treatment.

No cases of Scabies were reported in the District during the year.

#### IMMUNISATION :

All immunisation work within the District is under the jurisdiction of the Holland County Council. Below are given details of the number of children immunised during the year :

##### Diphtheria :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	129
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	187
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	19
						— 335

Number of Booster Injections ... ... ... 419

##### Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough :

Under 5 years ... ... ... ... ... 9

##### Combined Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus :

Under 5 years ... ... ... ... ... 318

The percentage of children immunised against Diphtheria in relation to the child population at 31.12.1961 is as follows :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	39.4%
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	62.9%
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	94.9%

The immunisation programme against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus continued. 419 children received "Booster" injections against Diphtheria whilst 318 children were immunised with Triple Antigen compared with 130 the previous year. The mothers appear to appreciate the fact that only 3 injections are now required to give protection against these 3 diseases.

#### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX :

##### Primary Vaccinations :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	147
1 year	...	...	...	...	...	8
2-4 years	...	...	...	...	...	9
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	9
15 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	14
						— 187

Re-vaccinations :

1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2-4 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
15 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
							—
							21
							—

There were 187 vaccinations and 21 re-vaccinations performed during the year. This was an increase on the figures for 1960 but still relatively small. The national figures for primary vaccination in infancy is still alarmingly low.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS :

The following shows the position of Poliomyelitis Vaccination at the 31st December, 1961.

Year of Birth	Number of Persons who had received 3 Injections.	Percentage
1920	58	10.5
1	70	12.5
2	74	15.0
3	96	19.0
4	83	17.5
5	115	24.5
6	116	23.6
7	105	26.2
8	103	20.7
9	123	26.6
1930	119	24.7
1	98	21.4
2	120	29.2
3	140	41.0
4	141	42.9
5	146	40.0
6	151	44.0
7	138	40.0
8	130	39.5
9	146	41.0

<b>Year of Birth</b>	<b>Number of Persons who had received 3 Injections.</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1940	184	53.9
1	179	51.3
2	219	61.5
3	251	70.3
4	288	77.0
5	281	75.7
6	325	81.6
7	341	83.5
8	309	85.4
9	305	92.4
1950	321	88.4
1	315	91.0
2	309	86.7
3	347	92.5
4	336	83.3
5	304	85.4
6	294	89.0
7	304	83.0
8	295	79.3
9	223	75.0
1960	63	18.2

Dr. Fielding, County Medical Officer, has kindly supplied the above information regarding the numbers immunised against Poliomyelitis. Further progress was made during the year and there was an improvement in the various age groups compared with 1960. Some of the figures are disappointingly and alarmingly low. Should there be an outbreak in the area, there would appear to be a large number of susceptible adults liable to contract the disease. During the year a fourth injection was offered to children in the 5-12 age groups and this was fairly well accepted by the majority of parents.

### **PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.**

I am indebted to Mr. W. R. Beardall, the Council's Water Engineer, for the following report on the Rural Water Supply.

#### **Statistics.**

Length of mains laid during the year ...	... 563 yards
Total length of mains in use ... ...	... 385 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles

Domestic consumption of water	...	...	153,983,000 gallons
Average daily consumption per house	...		72 gallons
Estimated consumption per person per day			18 gallons
Number of domestic consumers	...	...	5,751
Number of properties supplied by meter	...		1,562

Particulars of number of dwellings supplied.

Parish.	Dwellings.
Algarkirk	169
Amber Hill	137
Bicker	255
Benington	171
Brothertoft	132
Butterwick	186
Fishtoft	1030
Frampton	398
Freiston	372
Fosdyke	148
Harts Grounds and Pelhams Lands	26
Kirton	1056
Leverton	217
Old Leake	485
Sutterton	363
Swineshead	596
Wigtoft	164
Wrangle	448
Wyberton	927

The figure for Fishtoft parish includes 627 dwellings supplied by the Borough of Boston.

### Water Analysis.

12 samples of water drawn from the mains at various points in the district were submitted by the Public Health Department for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln. The results showed the water to be satisfactory.

# REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

## HOUSING.

### Slum Clearance.

The Council's Slum Clearance programme has continued, but the number of properties dealt with has again fallen.

Very few complaints are received from occupiers of sub-standard properties relative to their accommodation, but these are speedily dealt with when received.

By 31st December, 1961 the position regarding houses dealt with in accordance with the Council's five year programme submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1955 was as set out below.

Unfit dwellings demolished since 1st January, 1956 ...	143
Dwellings subject to Demolition Orders but not yet demolished ... ... ... ... ... ...	25
Dwellings subject to Closing Orders—not demolished	32
Dwellings subject to Undertakings not to re-let for human habitation ... ... ... ... ...	76

The figure of 200 houses demolished should have been reached by the end of 1960, but obviously with the introduction of the grant schemes a number of properties which would have been dealt with as unfit have been dealt with by grant aid.

### Overcrowding.

No cases of legal overcrowding were notified during the year. I would, however, mention that there were six complaints of alleged overcrowding, but upon investigation the houses in question were found to be not legally overcrowded. A case could be made out for moral overcrowding and I consider that the time is now due for the standards as laid down in the Housing Act, 1957 (Part 4, Sixth Schedule) to be amended.

### Improvement Grants.

Sixty-four houses have been inspected in the year in connection with grant applications.

This particular section of housing work has continued to be one of the most important of the Council's housing programme. The number of houses being dealt with has increased particularly in respect of Standard Grants. As reported above in Slum Clearance, houses which might have been dealt with as unfit are, with grant aid, being improved and brought up to the Statutory Housing Standard. The time is not far distant when it is hoped that the Statutory Housing Standard will be amended to require that houses which do not have the amenities as laid down under the standard grant scheme, will be considered as unfit.

### **Certificates of Disrepair.**

Applications received	Nil
Certificates issued	Nil
Certificates cancelled	Nil
Certificates still in force	1

### **Summary of new dwellings completed during 1961.**

Council Houses.	Fishtoft	...	...	18
	Frampton	...	...	2
	Kirton	...	...	8
	Old Leake	...	...	1
	Wigtoft	...	...	4
	Wrangle	...	...	4
	Wyberton	...	...	8
				—
				45
Private enterprise houses		...	...	68
				—
				113

### **Remedy of Housing Defects.**

Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936							Nil
Statutory Notices under the Housing Act, 1957,							
Section 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

### **Action under Sections 16 and 17, Housing Act, 1957.**

Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Undertakings not to re-let accepted	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dwellings demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

### **Moveable Dwellings.**

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 gave Local Authorities an opportunity for more effective control of caravan sites. Inspections made in 1960 were followed up during the past year and caravan sites upon which proprietary type caravans were sited were, with one or two exceptions, made to comply with the Council's new conditions by 30th June, 1961.

The sites where other than proprietary type caravans were sited were given until 31st December, 1961 to comply. A few sites have closed down, being unable to comply with the conditions.

The Council's caravan site at Wyberton was closed on 31st December, 1961. All the caravans with the exception of one were

removed from the site by that date. The occupier of the remaining caravan was having difficulty in obtaining another site and the time for its removal from the Council's site was extended.

The owners of the private site for 20 caravans at Wyberton decided after considerable negotiation to continue with the site and to comply with the conditions imposed by the Council. The works are being carried out and the site will provide a necessary amenity for the district, as there are still many people who either prefer to live in caravans, or whose work involves moving from place to place.

### DRAINAGE.

The sewerage of parts of the parishes of Frampton and Kirton and the extensions of the Sewage Disposal Works at Frampton were completed. Connections to the Public Sewers in these two parishes began in March, 1961 and by the end of the year approximately 500 properties (66%) had been connected.

In the parish of Wyberton which drains to the same Sewage Disposal Works, 563 properties were connected to the main sewer by the end of the year, leaving 8 properties on the line of the sewer still not connected. The number of properties not connected is two more than last year, but this is accounted for by the fact that additional lengths of sewer have been laid.

There are 619 properties connected and 29 on the line of the sewer still not connected in the parish of Fishtoft.

The open lagoon at Kirton was dispensed with during the year and the site filled in. The Housing Estate at Butterwick with 28 dwellings continues to have its drainage piped to an open lagoon. There were one or two complaints of smell and fly nuisances during the year. These were dealt with and it is hoped that the Butterwick and Freiston main drainage will be put into operation as quickly as possible, so that this recurring nuisance can be permanently abated.

Thirteen Council Housing Estates have their own small Sewage Disposal Plants. These are desludged by the Council's cesspool emptying vehicles once in every seven weeks.

The number of dwellings now connected to the Council's sewers is 2,360. There are still 3,750 dwellings in the district served by cesspools and over 1,300 dwellings have no proper drainage systems.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION :

Four vehicles are employed on this service, three fore and aft tippers and one side loader, all with diesel engines. One other vehicle is in reserve in case of breakdowns.

The collection of refuse becomes more difficult as the number of properties requiring the service gradually increases, and the refuse increases in bulk involving more journeys to the point of disposal.

Transport difficulties are aggravated by the fact that the district is divided by the River Witham and the Haven. The only means of access from one side of the district to the other is via two bridges in Boston where congestion of traffic causes considerable delay on the service. To lessen this difficulty it is necessary for tips to be available in both the North and South areas of the Council's district.

During 1961 successful negotiations were attained for taking over, for use as a refuse tip, a site at Creasey Plot Lane, Swineshead. At the present rate of tipping, it is hoped that sufficient area will be available to last the South side of the district for approximately 8 years.

On the Northern side of the district there are two tips available. One at the Weirs, Butterwick which will probably last a further 2 years, and a small tip at Old Leake, with approximately the same length of life.

Suitable tips are becoming increasingly difficult to find and a survey is being carried out to find a suitable tip in the Northern part of the district.

Serious consideration regarding the use of a mechanical shovel at the tipping sites should be given. This would assist in the quicker turn round of the refuse collection vehicles as the shovel would deposit and compact the refuse in the tip allowing the vehicles and men to return immediately to the collecting areas. Furthermore the tips would accept a greater volume of refuse due to better compaction, sleeper roadways would to some extent be eliminated and the tip surface kept in better condition, reducing possible nuisances.

In spite of the difficulties met with, most of the residents of the District have continued to enjoy a weekly collection of refuse. Apart from the inability to collect garden refuse there is little restriction upon the type of refuse collected and every effort is made to remove all refuse from premises to avoid occupants resorting to indiscriminate dumping of unwanted "articles" in dykes and on road sides.

I am sorry to find that some members of the public still continue to deposit litter in various parts of the countryside in spite of the fact that the Council provide an excellent refuse collection service.

The table which follows gives quite a lot of information concerning the service. With increased cost of labour, equipment and the maintenance of vehicles, the cost of the service must inevitably rise, but the collection and disposal of refuse at 9d. per week for a dwelling is surely not a heavy price to pay for this service.

## REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE SUMMARY.

Round No.	One	Two	Three	Four
Vehicle No.	MDO 664	JJL 727	LDO 55	RDO 838
Purchased	1958	1956	1957	1960
Capacity—cu. yds.	10.5	16/18	16/18	16/18
Engine Type	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel
Average miles per gall.	13	10	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Average miles per week	218	160	137	200
No. of men in team	2	4	4	3
Refuse bins on round	1218	2208	2342	1665
Average bins per man per day	111	100	106	85
Density—bins per mile	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	17	8 $\frac{1}{2}$

	1961	1960	1959	1958
Estimated cost of Refuse Collection Service	£14,171	£11,724	£11,448	£10,560
Cost of emptying per bin	37/7d.	31/7d.	31/7d.	29/2d.
Cost per bin per collection	9d.	8d.	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	7d.
Average period between emptyings	80%-7 days 20%-8 days	80%-7 days 20%-8 days	7-8 days	7 days

## SANITARY PAIL EMPTYING.

This work continues to be carried out by two vehicles. The disposal of pail contents by composting with straw ceased during the year. The farmers appeared to be no longer in need of it, and, by arrangements with the Council's Surveyor, pail contents were disposed of in a special sludge lagoon at Frampton Disposal Works.

With the conversion of pails to water closets, particularly on the line of the sewers, the number of pails has been slowly reduced. The number of pails now required to be emptied is 1,309.

## PAIL EMPTYING SERVICE SUMMARY.

Round No.	One	Two	
Vehicle No. .... .... ....	CJL 86	FDO 870	
Purchased .... .... ....	1949	1953	
Capacity .... .... .... ....	550 gallons.	550 gallons.	
Engine Type .... .... ....	Petrol	Petrol	
Average miles per gall. ....	6	5½	
Average miles per 4 days ....	187	132	
No. of men in team .... ....	2	2	
No. of pails on round .... ....	613	696	
Average pails per man per day .... .... .... ....	77	87	
Density—Pails per mile ....	3¾	5¾	
	1961	1960	1959
Estimated cost of Pail Emptying Service .... ....	£3875	£3830	£3815
Cost of emptying per pail ....	59/2d.	52/8d.	52/6d.
Cost per pail per collection ....	11d.	10d.	9¾d.

## CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

There was the usual heavy demand for this service in the Spring, but with the two 1,100 gallon vehicles now in service it was possible to deal more quickly with the requests. Disposal of cesspool contents continued in the sludge drying beds at Frampton Sewage Works. The passing of these liquids through the Sewage Disposal Works does not appear to have had any serious effect, but it is still being closely watched.

## CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE SUMMARY.

Vehicle No. .... .... .... ....	RJL 542	OJL 988	
Purchased .... .... .... ....	1961	1960	
Capacity .... .... .... ....	1100 gallons.	1100 gallons.	
Engine Type .... .... .... ....	Diesel	Diesel	
Average miles per gallon ....	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Number of men in team ....	2	2	
	1961	1960	1959
Premises given free service ....	1438	1237	1337
Chargeable emptyings .... ....	536	484	479
Vaults emptied—chargeable	39	39	33
1000 gallon loads removed from cesspools, vaults, etc.	1727	1453	1276
Vehicle loads removed from Housing Estate Sewage Plants .... .... .... ....	344	393	347
Vehicle loads of sludge from Frampton Sewage Disposal Works .... .... .... ....	251	—	—

Estimated total expenditure of the Cesspool Emptying Service in 1961—£4,032.

Estimated income from chargeable work :

Private Premises	... ..	£567	£	1092
Council Premises	... ..	£525	£	

Estimated net cost of the Service	... .. .. £	2940
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### SALVAGE.

Materials suitable for salvage are collected by means of trailers attached to the refuse collection vehicles. The quantity disposed of in 1961 was 21 tons less than in the previous year and the income

fell by £81. The price received for waste paper fell a little and there seems to be every likelihood of lower prices in the coming year, as there appears at present to be a surplus of waste paper being recovered in the country.

Details of materials sold during 1961 are as follows :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Cardboard	...	...	25 11 2	230	13	1
Paper Sacks	...	...	9 3 3	88	3	3
Mixed Waste Paper	...	179	12 2	1280	8	3
Textiles	...	...	6 17 1	112	7	8
	221	5	0	1711	12	3

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### FOOD PREMISES.

The pressure of work of other Public Health duties was again such that it is with regret I have to record that routine inspections of food premises and work under the Food Hygiene Regulations was very limited during the year.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The appointed day for compliance with the Slaughterhouse Regulations, fixed by the Ministry for the Council's district, was 1st October, 1961. One licensee decided to close his slaughtering business. Five of the remaining six premises were brought up to the standard required by the regulations in time for the appointed day. The owners of the sixth slaughterhouse required an extention of time as their proposals included the complete alteration of the slaughterhouse and factory premises, and it would not be possible to comply by the appointed day. The Council accordingly agreed to an extension of time, on the understanding that slaughtering would cease on the appointed day, and upon satisfactory completion of the alterations to the premises the licence would be renewed.

## MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat Inspection figures for 1961 are given in the table below :—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed (as notified)	917	—	1	1510	3504	5932
Number Inspected .... ....	917	—	1	1510	3504	5932
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</b>						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	3	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .... .... ....	139	—	—	15	1000	1154
Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci :	15.16%	—	—	1.0%	28.54%	19.45%
<b>Tuberculosis only :</b>						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .... .... ....	2	—	—	—	80	82
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis .... ....	0.22%	—	—	—	2.28%	1.38%
<b>Cysticercosis :</b>	—					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	—	—	—	—	13
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation .... .... ....	13	—	—	—	—	13
Generalised and totally condemned .... .... ....	—	—	—	—	—	—

**Total weight of meat condemned—3 tons 2 cwts. 2 qrs. 14 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs.**

## INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

The undermentioned foodstuffs, found to be unfit for human con-  
sumption, were suitably disposed of :—

- 5 1 lb. 3 oz. Red Plums.
- 2 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Garden Dessert Prunes.
- 13 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Dessert Prunes.
- 2 1 lb. 3 oz. Victoria Plums.
- 1 1 lb. Ox Tongue.
- 1 4 lb. Pork Luncheon Meat.
- 1 6 lb. Corned Beef.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

One business only comes under this heading, a licensed Knacker's Yard where animal matter is processed. The premises are maintained in a reasonable condition considering the type of business carried on.

## RODENT CONTROL.

The duties of rodent control are carried out by the Cleansing Services Foreman. Treatment for the destruction of rats and mice at private dwellings is undertaken without charge. Treatment at business premises is chargeable.

A total of 232 premises were surveyed in connection with rodent infestation and 166 infestations of rats or mice dealt with.

## INSECT PEST CONTROL.

All Council controlled refuse tips were treated regularly with insecticides to discourage flybreeding. Wasps nests were destroyed without charge when they constituted a nuisance to householders.

## STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

The Chief Public Health Inspector is the appointed Petroleum Officer for the Council's district.

Inspections of flowmeter pumps continued throughout the year involving numerous inspections. Practically all the pumps where petrol is for sale to the public now comply with the Regulations. There are still a few cases however, where difficulties are being met with from the occupiers of the premises, the main problem being the expense involved in carrying out the works. This is aggravated by the fact that sales appear to be dwindling, due mainly to the Petrol Companies providing more modern petrol filling stations.

A number of new installations were carried out during the year, one site selected for the installation of a 2,000 gallon tank had to be abandoned for eight months after the foundations had collapsed due to bad ground conditions.

It is desirable that petrol tanks installed in this low lying area should be of the shallow type, this cuts down the depth of digging and reduces the risk of collapse of the walls as invariably running sands, wet silt or water can be found at more than 5 feet deep.

Installations under licence at the end of the year were as follows :—

Petroleum Spirit—Less than 500 gallons ... ...	53
500 to 1000 gallons ... ...	141
More than 1000 gallons ... ...	24

Petroleum Spirit Mixtures ... ... ... ... 6

Carbide of Calcium : Less than 8 $\frac{3}{4}$  cwts. ... ... ... 2

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1961 for the Rural District of Boston in the County of Holland (Lincs.)

### PART I OF THE ACT.

#### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ....	12	nil	nil	nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ....	80	9	2	nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	nil	nil	nil	nil
Total	92	9	2	nil

#### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .... .... .... ....	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ....	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .... ....	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .... .... ....	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .... ....	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ....	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective .... ....	4	2	nil	3	nil
(c) Not separate for sexes .... ....	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) .... ....	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Total ....	4	2	nil	3	nil

## PART VIII OF THE ACT.

### Outwork.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosec- tions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)

NIL OUTWORKERS.

### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS, ADDITIONAL TO THOSE MENTIONED ELSEWHERE IN THIS REPORT.

Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	184
Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Caravan Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	171
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1013
Dyke Pollution and Overflowing Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Provision of Refuse Bins	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Control of Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	372
Public Cleansing Services	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	625
Petroleum Storage	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
National Assistance Act, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	80









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